(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration in the Government.

(b) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require declaration of retail sale price of the package in.the form Maximum Retail Price..(Inclusive of all taxes) (MRP), for information of consumers. This arrangement is only a price declaratory mechanism and not price control mechanism. The said Rules have penal provision, which prevent retail dealer from selling the package at a price higher than the declared MRP, protecting the interest of consumers. Sale of the package at price less than MRP, for whatever reasons, is permitted at it is favourable to buyers.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration to interfere in the price fixation of commodities sold in pre-packed form, by manufactures packers, as market forces would ensure stabilization of selling price.

Food Subsidy

† 3908. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned as food subsidy to various States during the last three years; and

(b) the amount sanctioned and released under this scheme to Orissa and Himachal Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement showing the amount of food subsidy released to various States, including Orissa, under the scheme of decentralised procurement of foodgrains during the last three years is given in the Statement. (See below).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As Himachal Pradesh is hot undertaking decentralised procurement of foodgrains, food subsidy is not released directly to the State Government.

Statement

Amount of food subsidy released to the States during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Chhattisgarh	158.60	89.94	628.87
Madhya Pradesh	128.27	66.74	118.75
Orissa*	NIL	NIL	40.96
Tamil Nadu	NIL	45.82	27.21
Uttaranchal	13.S7	80.43	92.73
Uttar Pradesh	1120.70	975.62	1377.96
West Bengal	81.19	27.41	179.97

* Orissa has undertaken decentralised procurement of foodgrains from 2004-05.

Surplus foodgrain stocks

3909. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the surplus stock of foodgrains available in the country at present, foodgrain-wise;

(b) the prupose for which the surplus stocks of foodgrains are proposed to be utilized by Government;

(c) the justifications for claiming surplus stock of foodgrains when millions of poor people in the country remain without proper food; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?